

faith have lost power in Europe. At present, while there are one hundred and seventy million Moslems in Asia and fifty millions in Africa, there are only five millions in Europe. Perhaps there is a physical reason for the limit of Moslem conquest toward the north. In the lands of ice and snow and shortened nights and days, the prayer-ritual is well-nigh impossible, and the fast becomes a crushing yoke. Gibbon tells us that the Tartars of Azof and Astrakhan used to object to the prayer-ritual, because it was impossible in their latitude, and tried, therefore, to dissuade the Turks from attempting further conquest in that direction.

**Persia**

The entrance of Islam into Persia began with the Saracen invasion and was completed during the caliphate of Omar. The conquest of Persia was of the greatest significance for the future of Islam. Here for many centuries Mohammedan literature had its greatest impulse and glory, while the Aryan mind contributed to the Semitic faith poetry, philosophy, and science. But Persia also became the mother of heresies and schisms, and so was a source of weakness to Islam.

**Central Asia**

From Persia Islam spread to Central Asia. We read that Bokhara was conquered and "converted" *three times*, only to revolt and relapse until the strongest measures were taken to es-